

is worthy of recognition from this prestigious body. On October 8, 2001, Dr. James Voss will announce his retirement from the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. As Dr. Voss steps down, I would like to recognize the contributions that he has made to so many individuals and to Colorado State University.

Stemming from a childhood on a farm and exposure to plowing fields with draft horses, James used his knowledge in 1977 to break ground for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital with a team of horses. He has been an integral member of University community for 43 years dedicated countless hours of service during this time. He has served as the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and offered numerous innovations and new ideas to the field of veterinary medicine. Due to his lasting impression on the University, it will rename the celebrated hospital the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital. While James remains humble in his tribute, his efforts have raised the national reputation of the Colorado State University veterinary college, which is now recognized as the number two school to attend in the nation for animal health and research according to US News and World Report.

Dr. Voss received his degree from the same institution in veterinary medicine and then returned to his alma mater to occupy the academic positions of Department Chair, Director of the Veterinary Hospital and Assistant Dean prior to becoming the Dean in 1986. Under his leadership, the research budget has increased, a number of academic programs were established and the academic curriculum bolstered.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. James Voss has left a lasting mark on Colorado State University and all of its students. Dr. Voss has made significant advancements in the field of veterinary medicine applicable all over the world. As James celebrates his retirement, I would like to congratulate Dr. James Voss on all of his accomplishments and extend my warmest regards and best wishes to him throughout the many years to come. He is an outstanding administrator and educator and he should be very proud of everything that he has achieved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2586) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Chairman, I rise today to give my qualified support to H.R. 2586, the 2002 Defense Authorization Act and to explain the reasoning behind my vote. Although I support a strong and effective national defense, I have opposed Defense au-

thorization and appropriations bills in the past. Many of the funds included in past bills would have gone to purchase weapon systems and other items that the Pentagon did not request and whose efficacy was questionable. I voted against past bills because I believe Congress must more effectively target scarce resources to all our national priorities.

However, one of the reasons that I am supportive of this legislation today is the fact that we are heading into a potentially protracted and difficult military conflict and it is important that our nation's armed services have necessary and appropriate resources available to them quickly. Additionally, I voted for H.R. 2586 with the understanding that certain controversial and questionable provisions of the bill will be worked out in conference with the Senate.

The Defense Authorization bill contains provisions that will provide increased benefits to the men and women of our armed forces, including retirees, and their families. The bill will include the largest increase in pay for members of our nation's military in 19 years. Additionally, this pay raise will be targeted to provide lower-paid enlistees with greater benefits.

With housing prices rising across the country, lower-paid members of our voluntary military forces sometimes struggle to pay their housing costs. The Defense Authorization bill would effectively reduce the current out-of-pocket housing costs for servicemembers from 15 percent to 11.3 percent by next year, and would seek to completely eliminate the out-of-pocket housing expenses by 2005. The 2002 Defense Authorization bill would also provide \$17.6 billion for defense healthcare including funding for promised care under TRICARE for Medicare-eligible military retirees.

The bill also includes important environmental cleanup provisions and assistance to foreign nations for humanitarian efforts. The bill would provide \$3 billion for the Energy Department to clean facilities with extensive and severe environmental damage before those facilities close. Funding for the development of new technologies to clean the environment is also included in the bill.

Despite these important provisions, I have grave concerns with certain provisions in the bill that I believe could harm our nation's relations with key allies. This bill includes \$8.2 billion for missile defense, which is 55 percent more than the current funding level. It also includes authorization to construct a test bed for a national missile defense system in Alaska. This test bed could violate the AntiBallistic Missile (ABM) treaty, which has been the cornerstone of international arms control for nearly 30 years. The proposed national missile defense system has only been tested in ways that can be described as artificial, and a majority of those tests have failed. In fact, a panel of Defense Department experts cautioned that Congress's rush to install a national missile defense was a "rush to failure."

Congress's misguided insistence on developing a missile defense shield and its apparent willingness to abrogate the ABM treaty will seriously injure America's relations with its foreign allies. Our European allies—Britain, France and others—have expressed reservations about America's unilateral approach toward national missile defense. Additionally,

Congress's insistence on a national missile defense that violates the ABM treaty could incite another arms race. Already, China has warned that it would acquire as many ballistic missiles with as many warheads as possible if the United States unilaterally deploys a missile defense.

While I strongly oppose provisions in the bill that would violate the ABM treaty by pushing forward with the development of a missile shield, I voted for the Defense Authorization bill with the understanding that both Republicans and Democrats will work together to come to an agreement on these contentious provisions. The Senate has already indicated its intention to cut \$1 billion from the funding contained in the bill for missile defense and it intends to consider a separate bill at a later date that will ensure Congress's authority to oversee any missile tests that could violate the ABM treaty.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENT BODY AND FACULTY OF CHOTEAU ELEMENTARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Student Body and Faculty of Choteau Elementary for its work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of young people like that of Choteau Elementary signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Student Body and Faculty of Choteau Elementary has contributed and raised more than \$2,300 in a school-wide change drive for the grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of Student Body and Faculty of Choteau Elementary is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the